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January 23, 2012

Senator Donald Olson
State Capitol Building
Room 508
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support of SB 130, Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council

Dear Senator Olson:


The Eyak Corporation greatly appreciates your introduction of SB 130 to establish an Alaska Native Language Preservation and Advisory Council. We strongly support the bill and encourage the Alaska State Legislature to adopt it this year.

In January 2008, after the passing of the last fluent speaker in the Eyak language, Chief Marie Smith Jones, the language was thought to be extinct. However, a number of shareholders of The Eyak Corporation, including descendants of Ms. Smith Jones, are of Eyak descent and have begun learning the language of their ancestors. In 2011, immersion clinics were held to teach the Eyak language in Cordova and Anchorage. Those clinics proved, beyond the slightest doubt, that Eyaks are fighting valiantly to keep their language alive.

Please let us know how we can support your efforts in furtherance of SB 130. We look forward to our Eyak shareholders and descendants expressing their appreciation to you, in Eyak.

Sincerely,

The Eyak Corporation


Nancy C. Barnes
President